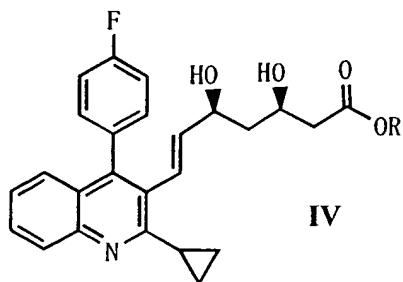
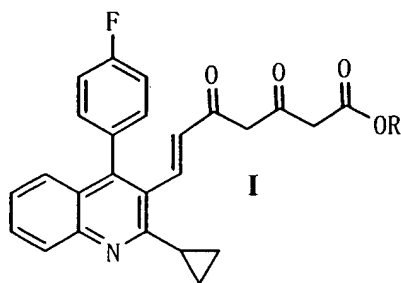


Amendments to the Claims

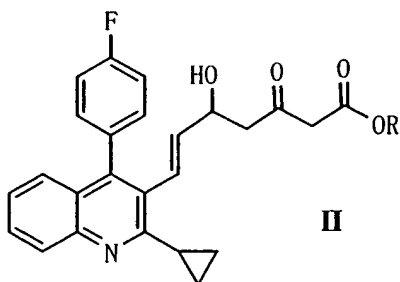
1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a compound represented by the following formula (IV):



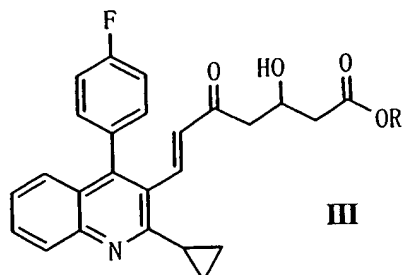
(~~wherein~~ wherein R denotes a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an aryl ~~group~~); group, comprising reducing a compound selected from the group consisting of:
a compound represented by the following formula (I):



(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~); formula;
a compound represented by the following formula (II):



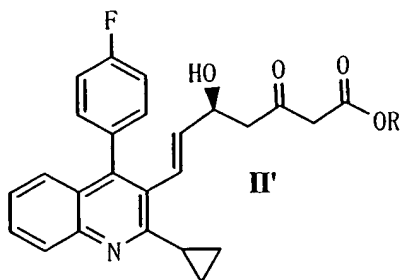
(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~), ~~and formula~~; and
a compound represented by the following formula (III):



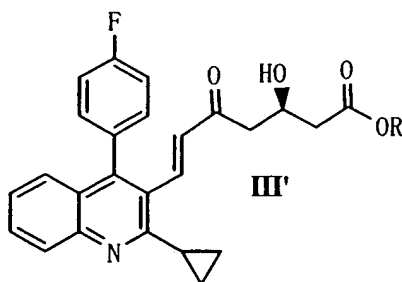
(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~), formula, by reacting the compound with a cell of a microorganism and/or a cell preparation thereof capable of stereo-selectively reducing a keto group.

2. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 1, wherein the compounds represented by the formulae (II) and (III) are optically active substances each represented by the following formula (II'):

(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~), formula.



and the following formula (III'):



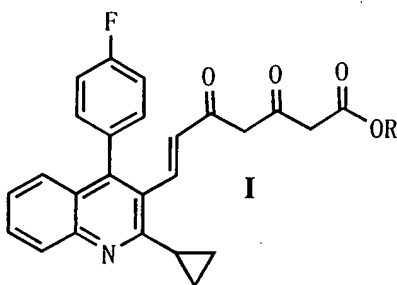
(wherein ~~wherein~~ R is as defined in the formula) formula.

3. (Original) The process for producing a compound according to claim 2, wherein each of the compounds represented by the formula (II') and the formula (III') is obtained from the compound represented by the formula (I).

4. (Previously presented) The process for producing a compound according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Trigonopsis*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Brevibacterium*, *Cellulomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and genus *Curtobacterium*.

5. (Original) The process for producing a compound according to claim 4, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Brevibacterium*, and *Corynebacterium*.

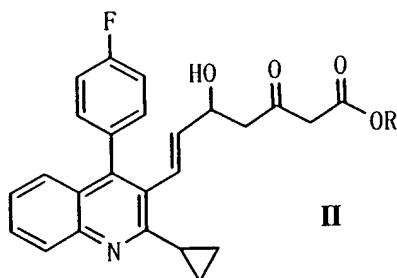
6. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (I):



(wherein ~~wherein~~ R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, and *Trigonopsis*.

7. (Original) The process for producing a compound according to claim 6, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, and *Rhodotorula*.

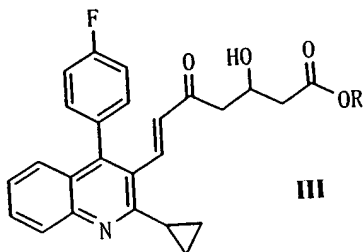
8. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (II):



(wherein ~~wherein~~ R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Trigonopsis*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Brevibacterium*, *Cellulomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and *Curtobacterium*.

9. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 8, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera ~~*Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Rhodotorula*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Brevibacterium*, and *Corynebacterium*~~ *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Rhodotorula*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Brevibacterium*, and *Corynebacterium*.

10. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (III):



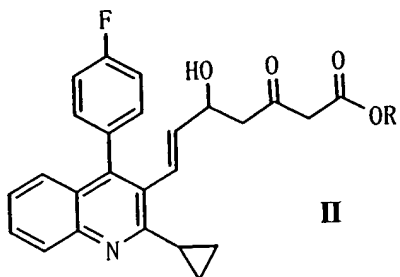
(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Rhodotorula*, *Filobasidium*, and *Pichia*.

11-14. (Cancel)

15. (Previously presented) The process for producing a compound according to claim 2, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Trigonopsis*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodosporidium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Brevibacterium*, *Cellulomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and genus *Curtobacterium*.

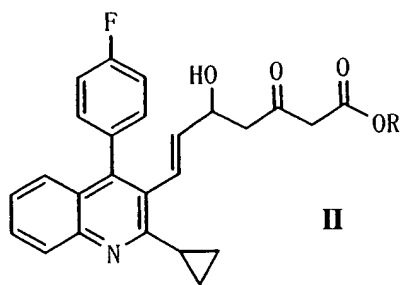
16. (Previously presented) The process for producing a compound according to claim 3, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Trigonopsis*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Saccharomyces*, *Rhodosporidium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Brevibacterium*, *Cellulomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and genus *Curtobacterium*.

17. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (II):



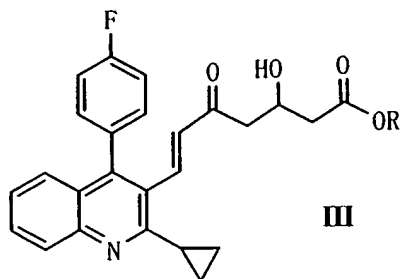
(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Trigonopsis*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Pichia*, *Saccaromyces*, *Rhodosporidium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Brevibacterium*, *Cellulomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and *Curtobacterium*.

18. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (II):



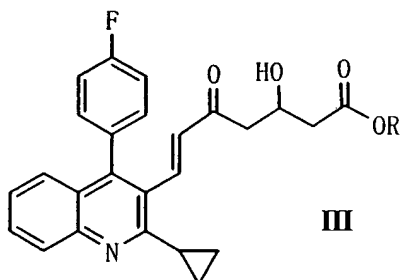
(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Metschnikowia*, *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Filobasidium*, *Ogataea*, *Citeromyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Rhodotorula*, *Exophiala*, *Trigonopsis*, *Shizosaccharomyces*, *Wickerhamiella*, *Saccharomycopsis*, *Saitoella*, *Pichia*, *Saccaromyces*, *Rhodosporidium*, *Acinetobacter*, *Brevibacterium*, *Cellulomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and *Curtobacterium*.

19. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (III):



(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Rhodotorula*, *Filobasidium*, and *Pichia*.

20. (Currently amended) The process for producing a compound according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the following formula (III):



(~~wherein~~ wherein R is as defined in the ~~formula~~) formula is reacted with the microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Cryptococcus*, *Candida*, *Rhodotorula*, *Filobasidium*, and *Pichia*.

21-24. (Cancel)